

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended for clarity. Applicants have cancelled Claim 4, thereby mooted the rejection presented under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that the pending claims are free of the cited prior art, for the reasons stated by the Examiner and for other reasons.

With regard to the Double Patenting rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer has already been filed. In addition, Applicants hereby state that:

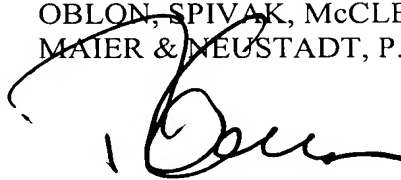
**The application and the reference were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person.**

In detail, USSN 10/594,759 and USSN 12/160,939 were each owned by current assignee ENI, S.p.A, when they were made, and continue to be owned by ENI, S.p.A with no breaks or other owners involved. This statement and explanation satisfy the showing required at page 2, bottom, of the outstanding Official Action. See, e.g., MPEP 706.02(1)(2).

Accordingly, as all issues presented in the Official Action have been addressed Applicants respectfully request an expedited Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Richard L. Treanor  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 36,379

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
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